

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 5, CANCEL claim 4 without prejudice or disclaimer and ADD new claims 6-11 in accordance with the following:

1. **(currently amended)** A high density recording medium with a super-resolution near-field structure including a sequential stack of a second dielectric layer, a recording layer, a protective layer, a mask layer, a first dielectric layer, and a polycarbonate layer, wherein the mask layer comprises high melting point metal oxide ~~or silicon oxide~~ to generate a near field by optically or thermally inducing physical changes in the crystalline structure and optical properties of the high melting point metal oxide ~~or silicon oxide~~.
2. **(original)** The high density recording medium of claim 1, wherein the high melting point metal oxide for the mask layer is  $WO_x$  which shows nearly reversible physical changes.
3. **(original)** The high density recording medium of claim 1, wherein the high melting point metal oxide for the mask layer is  $TaO_x$  or  $AuO_x$  which shows irreversible physical changes.
4. **(cancelled)**
5. **(currently amended)** The high density recording medium of ~~any one of claims 1 through 4~~ claim 1, further comprising a reflective layer containing silver or aluminum below the second dielectric layer.
6. **(new)** The high density recording medium of claim 2, further comprising a reflective layer containing silver or aluminum below the second dielectric layer.
7. **(new)** The high density recording medium of claim 3, further comprising a

reflective layer containing silver or aluminum below the second dielectric layer.

8. (new) A high density recording medium with a super-resolution near-field structure including a sequential stack of a second dielectric layer, a recording layer, a protective layer, a mask layer, a first dielectric layer, and a polycarbonate layer, wherein the mask layer comprises silicon oxide to generate a near field by optically or thermally inducing physical changes in the crystalline structure and optical properties of the silicon oxide.

9. (new) The high density recording medium of claim 8, wherein the silicon oxide for the mask layer is  $\text{SiO}_x$  which shows irreversible physical changes.

10. (new) The high density recording medium of claim 8, further comprising a reflective layer containing silver or aluminum below the second dielectric layer.

11. (new) The high density recording medium of claim 9, further comprising a reflective layer containing silver or aluminum below the second dielectric layer.